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True Love and Trust in Human Relationships and Social Issues: A Critical Study of Select Novels of Sudeep Nagarkar

Introduction (Theme, Rationale, and Significance of the Study)

The present research work deals with *True Love and Trust in Human Relationships and Social Issues: A Critical Study of Select Novels of Sudeep Nagarkar*. The main aim of this research work is to find out the complexity of human relationships, friendship, true love trust in relation, and social issues and the forces which shape our relationships are society, religion, economic as well as political aspects. The values of relationships also change due to the changes in modern life's thoughts, philosophy and way of life. Human Relationships are the bonds that humans share with one another in different spheres of life. Understanding human relationships is a complicated task as it is a complex phenomenon. Various attempts have been made to study and understand human relationships through the lenses of literature, philosophy, psychology, and society. And it is understood that human relationships are in a constant mode of transformation, owing to the different changes in the environment/circumstances. The ideological and social changes along with the time period have made an immense transition of value and ethics which have made a direct impact on human relationships.

The twenty-first century is often attributed to the century of science and technology. With the advancement of science and technology, various developments took place in different spheres. In the midst of such transformation values and ethics were also modified which have the concept of family, marriage, and sexuality. The cultural exchanges that became the product of a highly globalized world also brought to the forefront Western culture that made an impact on the culture of the third world. The number of people across the countries increased with the comfort added by various developments. But along with the development, there came complications as well. The modernization of cultures also created the mechanization of human thought which reduced humans from their true selves.

Human compassion and emotion in the age of technology began to lose their true essence. With such transformation in human beings, violence and destruction started spreading which gradually changed human relationships and the bond that they share with each other. Human relationships are the form of behavioural practices and exchanges between or with people in different spheres and affairs of human life. Many attempts have been made and various dimensions of thoughts have been exercised to understand human relationships from literal, philosophical, social, and psychological positions focusing on human instincts and their multiple expressions connecting with surroundings. But it appears that human relationships are a complex and complicated phenomenon. It is a complicated task to define and understand human relationships because they are always in constant change according to emerging situations and changes in human society. The continuous societal changes going on in society have greatly influenced human relationships from various perspectives. The external fact and forces which keep on emanating due to various changes at the local and global levels are credited to bringing changes at personal/ private and social levels in human relationships. These changes formulate social and ideological norms by which humans are subjected to accept or reject changes in accordance with their convenience. The socially, ideologically driven, and inexplicably loaded bonds that humans share with other humans are always in transformative mode and function as a tool to bring changes in societal values. The aim of this research is to depict such changes that human relationships encountered with the transformation and transition of society.

India has a different socioeconomic, political and cultural structure as compared to the West, and the same applies to human relations in Indian society. There emerged a new age fiction that was about India and Indian culture in context and spoke of not only love and romance but also the way we navigate our lives in India. Today, Indian youth are participating in protests, voicing their opinions and are interested in being aware citizens of the country. And

the same is depicted in the writings of Sudeep Nagarkar needs to reflect the same. In a similar fashion, Sudeep Nagarkar has portrayed a simple yet complex understanding of sensitive issues concerning Indian society including human relations which reflects his ideology and social understanding in a much more comprehensive range that helps to understand and provides a bigger scope for studies.

This research aims to provide a summary of a variety of societal issues and human relations addressed by the author, aiming from the household level up to the national level. A careful look at various relationships and ups and downs in the life of people ranging from all classes defined by society would help one in learning the social aspects of those respective classes. This research also provides proof of the real pace of developing modern Indian society. There is a wider range of prospects in the writings Nagarkar, which help understand Indian society at a molecular level. The writings highlight the drawbacks of a developing country which are often oppressed or given less attention in order to acquire higher power. The research would help understand these prospects and shed light on the lesser-known facts about the dark sides of power play.

The researcher is considering the following texts as primary sources for her research.

- Nagarkar, Sudeep. That's The Way We Met. Random House. India. 2012
- Nagarkar, Sudeep. *Sorry, You Are Not My Type*. Random House India, 2014.
- Nagarkar, Sudeep. You're Trending In My Dreams. Random House. India. 2015
- Nagarkar, Sudeep. *All Rights Reserved For You*. Penguin random house India, 2016.
- Nagarkar, Sudeep. *Our Story Needs No Filter.* Penguin random house.2017

Sudeep Nagarkar is an Indian novelist and fiction author who was born on February 26, 1988. *Few Things Left Unsaid*, his debut book, was published by Srishti Publishers in 2011. More than twelve of his works have been published to date. He is the recipient of the 2013 Youth Achievers' Award for writing for being one of the highest-selling writers in India in the

romance genre. According to Amazon India, his novel *It Started with a Friend Request* was the most-read fiction of 2013. By critically analysing his selected texts the research will try to shed light on human relations and social issues in Indian society.

Research Problem

In modern times there are many factors that affect human relations thus this research will try to find solutions to these problems in Sudeep Nagarkar's fiction. The present research will try to find out the answers to the following questions:

1. What are the factors that affect human relations in Indian society?
2. Why the human relations are less-valued in modern Indian society?
3. What are the social issues discussed in the fiction of Nagarkar?
4. How are the social issues affecting human relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's fiction?

Hypothesis Statement

The proposed research attempts to study the select writings of Sudeep Nagarkar in order to find out the True Love and Trust in Human Relationships and Social Issues and the status of human relations in Indian society. The purpose of this research is to understand how social and modern issues affect human relations.

The following are the hypotheses of the present research:

1. In modern times, human relationships are given lesser significance compared to other facets of human life. This trend is notably exemplified in Nagarkar's novel *Our Story Needs No Filter* and other select fiction where such devaluation of relationships is purportedly supported.
2. In Sudeep Nagararkar's novel, *That's The Way We Met,* social issues and human relations are not linked with each other for the understanding of human relations. Thus, it is considered that social issues in society might not really affect how people connect with each other.

3. Human relations are not studied thoroughly in comparison with other social and modern issues that may affect family values and human relations in Indian society and a comparative study of Sudeep Nagarkar's fiction may shed a new light on the same.
4. A critical study of Sudeep Nagarkar's select novels from the perspective of 'True Love and Trust in Human Relationships and Social Issues, together form a better understanding of Family relations in Indian society.

Aims and Objectives

The proposed research will attempt to examine and analyse the select writings of Sudeep Nagarkar to understand the love and trust in human relationships and the connection between social and modern issues with human relations. The following are the aims and objectives of this research:

1. To highlight the factors that affect human relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's fiction
2. To study the values of human relations and social issues in Indian society depicted in the select works of Sudeep Nagarkar
3. To understand how social and modern issues affect human relations in Indian society the select works of Sudeep Nagarkar
4. To find out the connection between social issues and human relations in Indian society depicted in the select works of Sudeep Nagarkar
5. To analyse the changing Human Relationships in the Twenty-First Century and its Issues, Causes and Consequences in Indian society in the works of Sudeep Nagarkar
6. To stress the necessity of true love and trust in human relationships in the works of Sudeep Nagarkar

Operational Definitions of Terms and Concepts

To facilitate the study in a better manner, the researcher proposes to define and interpret various theoretical aspects of the terms and concepts. These include human relations, Social Issues, modern issues, Indian society, youth, family values, class, gender, romance, power, love, comparative method, etc. The study of these terms will enable the researcher to delve deep into the theoretical considerations of the research problem and more importantly into the understanding of human relations, and their connection to the social and modern issues in the select writings of Sudeep Nagarkar.

A Review of Literature

Though there have been many attempts to study human relations, many scholars have attempted to explore the way human relations are important and human relations in the corporate world. In her PhD thesis, "Human Relationships in Select Indian English Novels of the Twenty-First Century", Manisha Rai, a research scholar, studied "Human Relationships: Globalization and Migration and Human Relationships: Violence, Terrorism and Postmodern Human Psyche" etc. But still, there are many aspects of human relations that need to be studied.

In "Social Issues and Emotional Healing Portrayed in the Select Works of Sudeep Nagarkar" Sasikumar A and Dr P Bhoomiraja explored the social issues and emotional healing portrayed in You're the Password to My Life and "It Started with a Friend Request" Dr. R Sivakumar and M Anusaya in their research article, "Depiction of Friendship, Love and Trust in Sudeep Nagarkar's *All Rights Reserved for You* talked about the family, love and friendship and its importance in life.

In her article "Human Relations: Meaning, Approach, Concept, Importance, Limitations" Vishakha B says that "A human relation is the relationship between human

resources of the organization. It incorporates management-employees and employees-employee relationships. It also consists of a relationship between the organization's human resources and outsiders" Thus, she throws light on the human relations in corporate organizations and the reaction between human resources of the organization.

Rose, Arnold M. in her book, *Sociology: The Study of Human Relations* focuses more on a sociological aspect of human relations and talks about society and human relations in detail.

In her book, *Reading Ladders for Human Relations* [5th Edition], Reid, Virginia M., [Ed.] aims at advancing the cause of better human relations through literature, especially drama and fiction. She further analyses the ladders just as Creating a Positive Self-Image, recognizing one's strengths and weaknesses, growing into maturity and accepting oneself, identifying with one's heritage, and developing personal values. Living with Others, considering family relationships, friendships, peer relationships, relationships with others, and alienation and rejection. Appreciating Different Cultures: ethnic, religious, regional, and world; and Coping with Change, including personal, social and economic, and political.

Eileen Tway's in his work *Reading Ladders for Human Relations* published by the National Council of Teachers of English in 1981 aims to provide educators with a valuable resource to enhance human relations through reading materials. The book introduces a collection of reading materials that are thoughtfully selected to promote better understanding, empathy, and communication among individuals. By utilizing a ladder-like progression of texts that gradually delve into deeper and more complex topics, Tway's work offers a structured approach for educators to facilitate meaningful discussions and interactions around human relations.

In her research article, "Life Role Salience: A Study of Dual-Career Couples in the Indian Context." Rajadhyaksha, Ujvala, and Deepti Bhatnagar investigated that, if the

importance placed on various life roles by male and female partners in dual-career couples in India changes differently throughout their lives, aligning with the concepts of adult developmental theories for men and women. They have been involved in surveying 92 dual-career couples. The findings partially supported the ideas from adult development theories, particularly regarding differences in how male and female partners perceive the importance of different life roles.

In his article published in The Hindu dated June 06, 2018, Srivathsan Nadadhur stated that the conflicts between love and friend-zoning are discussed in Nagarkar's latest book, 'She Friend-Zoned My Love'. The focus of the author's books is placed more on the journey rather than the plot. Material for his stories is derived from observation supported by sufficient creative imagination. It is believed by Sudeep Nagarkar that nothing is fictional; everything draws inspiration from some source.

In her blog, (https://yourstory.com/) Rekha Balakrishnan mentioned that the works of Sudeep Nagarkar, preferably, *A Second Chance* explore how life and love can take different turns over time. She also mentioned that in his works there are so many youngsters out there who just lose faith in love with one failed relationship and start hating the idea of love. ‘Sudeep is one of India’s best-selling authors, appealing to readers with his tales of romance, heartbreak, relationships and lessons of life’.

Many research scholars have studied human relations but very few of them have explored the human relations in Sudeep Nagarkar’s fiction. Hence, this research focuses on the Critical Study of Human Relations and Social Issues in the Select Fiction of Sudeep Nagarkar.

Research Design

The basic method used in the study would be a descriptive approach. The proposed research, “*True Love and Trust in Human Relationships and Social Issues: A Critical Study of Select Novels of Sudeep Nagarkar,*” will be based on qualitative research with descriptive

textual analysis using the comparative method to understand the human relations depicted in various text of Sudeep Nagarkar and the issues such as Social, Political, modern like depression, anxiety etc. that affect the human relations in the Indian Society.

The library research method will be used by the researcher to collect primary and secondary sources for the same research. The study will concern the data interpretation of the select fiction of Sudeep Nagarkar and supporting scholarly articles. The sources will be taken from the library and the internet, and they can be books, articles, journals, essays, and all kinds of written/recorded material supporting the researcher's study. The researcher will be taking any information, opinions, theories, and concepts to support the study from the sources.

The Scope and Limitations

The scope of the study is focused mainly on the select novels of Sudeep Nagarkar, which underline the concept of human relations, love, life, friendship and social, political and modern issues in Indian society to develop the understanding through the study of primary and secondary sources.

This research will make an attempt to interpret the supporting scholarly articles about human relations and social issues in Indian society that is displayed in literature. Another limitation is that the proposed research will be based only on select texts of Sudeep Nagarkar.

Tentative Scheme of Chapters

The following is the scheme of chapters as visualised by the researcher for the study. The study will comprise six chapters.

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter will briefly introduce the research problem and define all the related terms and concepts. A brief biographical sketch of the author will also be attempted in this chapter.

The following are the sub-sections of Chapter I

1.1) Introduction to the Theme of Research

1.2) Research Related Terms and Concepts.

1.3) Research Problem

1.4) Brief Biographical Sketch of the Author

1.5) Review of Literature

Chapter II: Understanding True Love and Trust in Human Relations with Reference to Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

The second chapter will deal with Human Relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels. Various aspects of friendships are portrayed by the author, of how long must the limits of such friendships last, how brutal hardships can be and lastly, the trauma of accepting a brutal force of love in the form of rape etc.

The following are the sub-sections of Chapter II

2.1) Human Relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels.

2.2) The Role of Friendship in Human Relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels.

2.3) A Study of Brutal Force of Love in the Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

2.4) Trauma in Relationships in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

2.5) Various Social Issues in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

The researcher will also examine the various social issues discussed in the select novels of Sudeep Nagarkar.

Chapter III: **Social Issues Affecting Human Relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels**

This chapter will focus on the social issues affecting human relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's select novels. The researcher will also study social, political and modern issues which are affecting human relations in society. This chapter will also focus on the particular interstate racism as well as female oppressive beliefs which are still carried on in Indian households. With deep friendships and romance, it also sheds light on inter-religion as well as long-distance relationships.

The following are the sub-sections of Chapter III

3.1) Social Issues Affecting Human Relations in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

3.2) A Study of Social, Political and Modern Issues in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

3.3) Interstate Racism and Female Oppressive Beliefs in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

3.4) Friendships and Romance in Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels

3.5) Inter-Religion and Long-Distance Relationships.

Chapter IV: **Changing Human Relationships in the Twenty-First Century and its Issues, Causes and Consequences in Indian Society with Reference to Sudeep Nagarkar's Select Novels**

In the fourth chapter, the researcher will study the changing human relationships in the twenty-first century and its issues, causes and consequences in Indian society with reference to Sudeep Nagarkar's select novels. This chapter will also be discussing the solutions to the problems in human relations in Indian society.

The following are the sub-sections of Chapter III

4.1) Changing human relationships in the Twenty-first Century

4.2) Issues, causes and Consequences of Changing Human Relationships in the Twenty-first Century

4.3) Solutions to the problems in human relations in Indian society.

Chapter V: **Comparison of All the Select Novels**

In this chapter, the researcher will compare all the select novels of Sudeep Nagarkar using various perspectives discussed in the above chapters.

5.1) A comparison of Sudeep Nagarkar's novels *Sorry, You Are Not My Type* and *All Rights Reserved For You*.

5.2) A Comparison of Sudeep Nagarkar's novels. *Our Story Needs No Filter* and *You're Trending In My Dreams*.

5.3) A Comparison of Sudeep Nagarkar's novels That's The Way We Met and other Select Novels

Chapter V: **Conclusion**

In this chapter, the researcher will pen down the findings of his research.

Justification of the Study (Expected Results and Policy Implications)

This research can be justified on the basis that the primary and secondary sources are separately studied from critical perspectives. The researcher has already discussed in the introduction that though human relations are discussed in a couple of texts and research, there are still many sides of human relations in Indian society, and issues like social, political and modern are affecting human relations in Indian society need to be critically analysed. According to the research, Human relations are studied mostly in the corporate

world and thus the study of human relations in Indian society will bring new aspects of human relations and the solutions to the problems modern human relations are facing. So, it will be an interesting and comprehensive thought to shed light on it. It will also add to family values, love, friendship, compassion, togetherness, long-distance relations, love life and romance in the present times. Also, by analysing the existing select texts of Sudeep Nagarkar and the secondary sources, the contemporary perception of human relations with social issues and the solutions to the problems in human relations can be well understood. One may gain greater insights into the pluralities of human relations from which the importance of human relations in Indian society can be highlighted.

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